

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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SECSTATE WASHDC 8447
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UNCLAS MEXICO 03066

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TECH, MX
SUBJECT: OVERFLIGHT PERMITS FOR CERRO PRIETO PROJECT

REF: MEXICO 898

1. FOLLOWING IS FREE TRANSLATION OF OPERATIVE PORTION OF
FONSEC NOTE NO. 502389 DATED FEB. 15, 1978 AND RECEIVED
FEB. 17:

"...AND MAKES REFERENCE TO ITS (THE EMBASSY'S) NOTE NO. 29
OF JANUARY 7 WITH WHICH THE NECESSARY PERMISSION WAS
REQUESTED FOR ONE AIRPLANE AND TWO HELICOPTERS OF THE
ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION OF THAT
COUNTRY TO OVERFLY (THE LAST TWO) AND LAND (THE FIRSTAB
IN MEXICAN TERRITORY BETWEEN THE MONTHS OF JANUARY AND
FEBRUARY 1978, FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEVELOPING ACTIVITIES IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE AGREEMENT SIGNED BY THAT U.S.
ADMINISTRATION AND THE MEXICAN FEDERAL ELECTRICITY
COMMISSION, DATED JUNE 21, 1977.

CONCERNING THIS, THE SECRETARIAT INFORMS THE EMBASSY THAT
THE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES OF THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT GRANT
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THE PERMISSION REQUESTED, SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING
CONDITIONS:

(1) THAT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH WHAT WAS ESTABLISHED IN THE
REFERENCED AGREEMENT THE FEDERAL ELECTRICITY COMMISSION
(CFE) WILL PARTICIPATE.

(2) THAT SAID COMMISSION WILL BE THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RESEARCH ACTIVITIES WHICH THE U.S. SCIENTISTS WILL CONDUCT IN MEXICAN TERRITORY.

(3) THAT THE FLIGHTS WILL BE CONDUCTED SEVEN DAYS PER WEEK AND ONLY BY DAY.

(4) THAT THE OBJECT OF THE MISSION WILL BE TO ESTABLISH A TRILATERAL NET IN THE ZONE OF CERRO PRIETO IN ORDER TO DETERMINE THE TENSION OF THE TERRESTRIAL CRUST AS IS INDICATED IN SUBPARAGRAPH 6 B OF ANNEX A OF THE REFERENCED AGREEMENT.

(5) THAT THE CREWS OF SAID AIRCRAFT FULFILL THE REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE "LEY DE VIAS GENERALES DE COMUNICACION" AND ITS REGULATIONS, AS WELL AS WITH THE RESPECTIVE DISPOSITIONS OF THEIR COUNTRY IN CONNECTION WITH STANDARDS OF NATIONALITY AND REGISTRATION, PERSONAL LICENSES, AND OTHER PERTINENT DOCUMENTATION IN FORCE.

(6) THAT DURING THE OPERATION OF SAID FLIGHTS THE CREW OF THE AIRCRAFT MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH THE CONTROL CENTERS OF AERIAL TRANSIT.

(7) THAT THE CITED AIRCRAFT ARE COVERED BY AN INSURANCE POLICY WHICH GUARANTEES INDENMITY FOR DAMAGES WHICH COULD BE CAUSED TO PERSONS OR THINGS ON THE SURFACE, UNDER TERMS UNCLASSIFIED

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ESTABLISHED BY ARTICLES 351 AND 352 OF THE "LEY DE VIAS GENERALES DE COMUNICACION".

2. EMBASSY HAS PROVIDED COPIES OF BOTH NOTES TO CFE, WHICH PLANS TO PROVIDE THEM TO LOCAL MILITARY COMMANDER IN THE ZONE.

3. FYI: EMBASSY NOTE REQUESTED PERMISSION FOR THE HELICOPTERS TO LAND, NOT THE AIRPLANE. IT ALSO REFERRED TO CFE-ERDA AGREEMENT DATED JULY 21, 1977 (NOT JUNE 21). END FYI.

4. EMBASSY RECEIVED TELEX FROM USGS/MENLO PARK, ALSO ON FEB. 17, INDICATING THAT THIS RESEARCH WHICH HAD PROCEEDED BASED ON REFTTEL, HAD NOW BEEN SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING, HOWEVER, THAT LOCAL MEXICAN MILITARY COMMANDER WANTED TO RECEIVE THE DOCUMENTATION, AND THIS WILL NOW BE PROVIDED TO HIM BY CFE.

5. IN CASE FUTURE FLIGHTS ARE DEEMED DESIRABLE UNDER THE GEOTHERMAL AGREEMENT, PLEASE PROVIDE DETAILS AND AS MUCH ADVANCE NOTICE AS POSSIBLE. THOMPSON

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